

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the D-day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

On June 6, 1944, combined Allied forces began the opening phase of Operation Overlord in an effort to break the Nazi stranglehold on Western Europe. The initial assault included over 156,000 troops, along with 11,590 aircraft and 6,939 naval vessels. In that first day alone, approximately 10,000 Allied personnel were either wounded or killed, including 6,000 Americans.

The D-day landing was the largest single amphibious assault in history, and soldiers of six divisions—three American, two British, and one Canadian—stormed upon five different beach landings in Normandy. Just hours before that, U.S., British, and Canadian airborne troops dropped into France to support the landing.

The world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Greatest Generation who assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazism and fascism and restoring freedom to millions in Europe.

Next week, as we commemorate this important day, I ask everyone to remember the importance of this 70th anniversary of the D-day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 2 months since the Senate acted to extend unemployment compensation to millions of Americans. It is a bill that was passed in a bipartisan fashion, the way folks back home want us to do things; a bill that was paid for, as was requested; a bill that will not increase the deficit one penny; and a bill that would extend unemployment benefits and help preserve the American way of life for 2.8 million Americans who are at risk of losing everything that they have worked for.

And so what the American public asks me—I know what the folks back home ask—is, Why won't the House act? We know that there is bipartisan support for this legislation even in this body.

The bill that I introduced, H.R. 4415, right after the Senate acted with the precise same language, has bipartisan cosponsorship. So the question is, Why? Why won't Congress act? Is it because this question is too complex? No. This one is really simple. We have a bill that would extend unemployment compensation that is paid for, and it would prevent families from losing their house. Every day that passes that we don't act, a family loses their home. Every day that passes, a family loses hope. It is on our watch that we are allowing this to happen.

I call upon Congress to act.

THE WORST DAY EVER FOR THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, every day that I leave home to fly here, I pass the Southwest Inn, the site of the worst day the Houston Fire Department has ever had. One year ago this Saturday, four brave firefighters were killed when the inn's roof collapsed upon them without warning.

Matthew Renaud, Robert Garner, Robert Bebee, and Anne Sullivan all lost their lives on that day. They never came back to their stations.

Anne's mother, Mary, works at the middle school that both my kids have attended. We shared tears over Anne's loss at a local restaurant. I know the pain of losing her Anne will never leave my friend. But I hope she remembers what her father told her sister from Heaven on that day. Her father said: "It is okay. I have got her. It is okay. I have got her." And He has them all.

RENEWING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 52 days now since the United States Senate passed bipartisan legislation to renew unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed. For 52 days, Speaker BOEHNER has been the only thing standing in the way of renewing this vital lifeline for millions of Americans.

In less than 3 days, the Senate bill will expire, and if Speaker BOEHNER gets his way, the House will leave town yet again without acting—delivering another devastating blow to the more than 2½ million Americans who have been cut off from this critical safety net.

We can't let Speaker BOEHNER run out the clock on the Senate bill. Every week that goes by, more and more members of our communities lose their unemployment benefits, and if the House does not act, then it is back to the drawing board for millions of Americans who are depending on us.

It is time for this body to act. The situation is not going to go away. It is only getting worse every week. If Congress does not act, nearly 5 million Americans will be without this lifeline by the end of the year.

I urge the Speaker to walk by my office and see the faces and read the stories of the people we have left behind. They are living on the edge, and without this critical lifeline, many of them lose everything.

The faces of the unemployed should not be invisible. I urge the Speaker to bring the Senate bill to the floor before it is too late. We deserve a vote.

HURRICANE SEASON PREPARATION

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, next week is June 1, and it marks the beginning of hurricane season. My constituents and Americans across the country in coastal regions are susceptible to these devastating storms. Disasters can strike at any time, often with little warning. It is important to have a plan in place.

Make sure the plan includes a supply kit filled with potentially lifesaving items like flashlights, radios, and batteries. It is also crucial to follow local weather forecasts and heed any emergency warnings during hurricanes or other extreme weather.

Hurricane season is starting. The best way to guarantee that you and your family are safe, you have to be prepared. My Web site, bilirakis.house.gov, as well as fema.gov, both have important resources available to you. This year, be sure you are ready and safe.

□ 1230

CONGRESS OWES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GUN SAFETY REFORM

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, shame on us. Twenty kids killed in Newtown, Connecticut. You can see their faces here.

Six college kids killed this week in Santa Barbara. Guns kill more young people in America than cancer, yet we can't pass universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, or limits on massacre magazines.

Shame on us. We even have a gag order on any publicly funded health research into gun violence. As Edmund Burke said:

There is no issue that is so controversial that it cannot be debated.

I would add that there is no issue that is so controversial that it cannot be researched, especially if such research could save lives.

Congress is failing the American people, and it is time to stop. Let's pass the Thompson amendment today. We owe it to the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, and we owe it to the families whose loved ones could be saved by real gun safety reforms.

KENTUCKY NATIONAL MODEL FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Kentucky has been a national model for the Affordable Care Act. In the first 6